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# THIRSK

## RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1950.



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J. BELL, PRINTER, THIRSK.



## THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the Year 1950. There has been no feature of outstanding Public Health interest during the year which calls for special comment or necessitated the issue of a special report. The health of the District remained good, and there was no epidemic of a serious nature. Those social services which prior to 1948 were administered by the Council and were transferred to the County have worked smoothly and efficiently. We are fortunate to have an Ambulance Depot here with which it is a pleasure to deal. I have received ready help from the Clerk, Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector and all the other members of the Council's Staff, and for this I am grateful.

#### Public Health Staff.

Clerk	...	...	...	...	W. A. Wilkinson
Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	...	F. Metcalfe
Additional Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	...	R. M. Sharphouse
Medical Officer of Health (Part time)	...	...	...	...	W. G. MacArthur

#### SECTION A.

##### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	71,544
Estimated residential population (Civilians)	...	...	...	...	...
(R.G.'s figures)	...	...	...	...	13,580
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	3,647
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£69,309
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£275

## Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Live Births—	183	112	71	Birth Rate per
Legitimate	175	106	69	1,000 of the
Illegitimate	8	6	2	population 13.47
Still Births—	14	6	8	Rate per 1,000
Legitimate	14	6	8	of all
Illegitimate	-	-	-	Births 76.50
Deaths	153	70	83	Death Rate per
				1,000 of the
				population 11.26

Deaths from puerperal causes Nil

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	7	3	4
Legitimate ...	7	3	4
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	9	3	6
Legitimate ...	9	3	6
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-

Death Rate all Infants per 1,000 Live Births ... 49.18

Death Rate Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births 51.42

Death Rate Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)

(R.G.'s list Headings (10-14)) ... 21

Deaths from Measles (all ages) (Heading 8) ... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) (Heading 5) Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (all ages) (Heading 27) ... Nil

## SECTION B.

### 1. Public Health Staff.

See above.

### 2. (a) Laboratory Work.

Under the operation of the National Health Service this is done at the Hospitals in whose area we are. Much is still done at the County Laboratory at Northallerton. With the tremendous decrease in the incidence of Diphtheria there is very much less requiring to be done as the bulk of our work

requiring Laboratory Confirmation was associated with the examination of swabs for diphtheria. The bulk of the work in testing for sputa is carried out by the County Pathologist at Northallerton.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The provision of these is now no longer the duty of the Local Authority.

(c) Nursing in the home.

This is now as in last year part of the Social Services provided under the Health Act and is under the supervision of the County Council.

Sections C., D. and E., are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector in this Report.

## **SECTION F.**

### **Prevalence of, and control over infectious Diseases.**

Isolation Hospital provision is now linked up with General Hospital Provision and the arrangement is not administered by the Local Authority.

Diphtheria. No case was notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever. 14 cases were notified. The disease was mild and they were mostly isolated at home.

Measles. 63 cases were notified. The epidemic was mild in nature and widespread throughout the areas. No schools were closed.

Whooping Cough. 13 cases were notified.

Pneumonia. 8 cases were notified. Of these four occurred in one family at or about the same time, and three in another. This is not usual and shows an uncommon infectivity.

One case of Poliomyelitis was notified and admitted to Hospital where the diagnosis was confirmed. A case of suspected Polio Encephalitis was admitted to Hospital as a precautionary measure but the diagnosis at a later date did not confirm the original one.

### Notifiable Diseases during the year.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	14	4	Nil
Pneumonia	8	2	Nil
Poliomyelitis	1	1	Nil
Polio Encephalitis	1	1	Nil
Measles	63	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	13	Nil	Nil

<i>Age</i>	<i>Disease Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Disease Pneumonia</i>	<i>Disease Polio-myelitis</i>	<i>Disease Polio-myelitis Encephalitis</i>	<i>Disease Measles</i>	<i>Disease Whooping Cough</i>
1- 2	-	-	-	-	2	-
2- 3	1	-	-	-	6	1
3- 4	3	-	-	-	6	-
4- 5	-	-	-	-	6	-
5-10	9	1	-	-	36	11
10-15	-	3	-	-	6	-
15-25	1	-	-	-	-	1
25-45	-	4	-	-	1	-
45-65	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & over	-	-	1	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>13</b>

In the return of the Causes of Deaths 3 deaths are shown as due to Pneumonia but these were not of those cases notified.

3. Cancer. No action taken.

4. (a) Prevention of Blindness. No action taken.

(b) Tuberculosis.

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
5-10	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
25-35	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
35-45	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis does not tally with the number shown here. The death here shown is that of a man who was notified during the year 1950. With the helpful co-operation of the Chest Specialists and the easy availability of X Ray diagnostic help early diagnoses are very much more likely and this is so essential in treatment. The Chest Physicians, too, are very willing to consult in the patients' own homes, and this is of great importance as so much of the treatment is domiciliary on account of the scarcity of available beds in Sanatoria.

### **Causes of Death in Thirsk Rural District in 1950.**

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. Tuberculosis Respiratory	3	3
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	3	-
11. Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronhas	2	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm Breast	-	2
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	8
16. Diabetes	-	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	12
18. Coronary Disease Angina	11	3
20. Other Heart Disease	22	29
21. Other Circulatory disease	5	3
22. Influenza	1	1
23. Pneumonia	2	1
24. Bronchitis	3	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-
30. Pregnancy Child Birth Abortion	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	13
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1
34. All other accidents	-	2
	—	—
	70	83
	—	—

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. MACARTHUR,

Medical Officer of Health.

# THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## **Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the Year 1950.**

MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1950.

Mr. Sharphouse has, as your Housing Inspector, assisted in the compilation of this report.

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

#### **Water Supply.**

The Thirsk and District Water Company supply many of the villages direct or in some cases the Council purchase bulk supplies of their water and maintain the water mains.

No complaint was made as to the wholesomeness of the water but in some Parishes supplied by the Council with water derived from springs, there is at times insufficiency of supply to meet all demands and is a matter that is under consideration by the Ministry of Health for unification of the supplies over the whole area.



**Particulars of Parishes as to supply of Water  
from public water mains.**

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Popn.</i>	<i>No. of dwelling houses.</i>	<i>No. of Popn. Supplied From Stand Mains. Pipes.</i>		<i>Remarks.</i>
Ainderby					
Quernhow	79	17	-	-	Pickhill extension
Bagby	215	67	156	36	Sutton Reservoir extension
Balk	69	14	55	-	do
*Boltby	179	52	-	-	
Cowesby	65	23	-	-	Private Supply
*Carlton Miniott	621	160	548	60	
*Catton	86	21	-	-	
*Dalton	259	71	156	54	
Ellenthorpe	61	12	-	-	Kirby Hill ext.
*Eldmire	54	10	45	-	
Fawdington	24	4	24	-	Kirby Hill ext.
*Felixkirk	102	21	70	-	
Holme	42	15	33	9	Pickhill extension
Hood Grange	10	1	-	-	Private supply
Howe	40	12	-	-	do
Hutton Sessay	94	23	92	-	Sutton extension
Humberton	69	14	-	-	Kirby Hill ext.
*Kepwick	146	35	140	-	
Kilburn	291	78	171	44	Springs and Reservoir
*Kirby Wiske	188	47	160	24	
Knayton	277	76	189	9	Springs & Reser.
Kirby Hill	155	31	85	50	Borehole supply
*Kirby Knowle	110	23	110	-	
Langthorpe	338	115	297	24	Kirby Hill bore extension

*Maunby	169	45	112	-	
Milby	70	23	39	-	Kirby Hill ext.
*Newby Wiske	167	49	96	24	
*Newsham	189	37	35	25	
*N. Kilvington	81	10	24	-	
*Norton-le-Clay	51	23	-	-	
Pickhill	291	80	171	42	Bore-hole supply
*Sandhutton	267	63	176	60	
*Sessay	260	69	244	20	
Sinderby	97	33	36	12	Pickhill extension
*S. Otterington	289	90	162	54	
*Sowerby	2445	816	2205	214	
*S. Kilvington	253	70	180	-	
*Skipton Bridge	93	26	-	-	
Sutton	241	86	174	30	Springs & Reser.
Thirkleby	246	58.	196	-	Sutton Mains ext.
Thirlby	102	24	50	-	Private supply
*Thirsk	2335	811	1525	575	
*Thornbrough	16	3	2	-	
Thornton Bridge	73	12	-	-	Kirby Hill mains extension
*Thornton-le-Moor	248	86	219	24	
*Thornton-le-St.	132	32	76	-	
*Topcliffe	530	125	448	32	
Upsall	104	25	-	-	Private supply

\* Parishes supplied direct by the Thirsk and District Water Company.

In the case of Dalton, Topcliffe, Sessay and Eldmire, water is purchased in bulk from the Thirsk and District Water Company and distributed through mains belonging to and maintained by the Council.

### **Public Water Supplies examined during the year.**

- |                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Sutton Supply | Satisfactory for drinking and general |
| (Springs)        | domestic use.                         |
| 2. Kirby Hill    |                                       |
| (Bore-hole)      | do                                    |
| 3. Pickhill      |                                       |
| (Bore-hole)      | do                                    |
| 4. Kilburn       |                                       |
| (Springs)        | do                                    |

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

No new works of sewerage and sewage disposal were carried out during the year. Schemes for the principal villages are now however under serious consideration and it is anticipated that some of the most needful cases will be carried out in the near future.

The discharge of partly treated sewage into ditches and water-courses leads to many complaints during the drier months of the year and conditions are worsening with more Water Closets being provided.

Tanks and ditches are periodically cleaned out so as to avoid nuisance as far as possible, but tank effluent is foul and outfalls give rise to complaint.

There is only one sewage disposal works at present in the area which serves one village. It comprises sedimentation tanks and land filtration. These works have been in existence some considerable time but the effluent remains good.

### **Public Cleansing.**

The collection and disposal of household refuse is carried out by the Council by direct labour over the whole of the area and includes the emptying of cesspools.

The vehicles used are two 10 cube yard Austins and one similar capacity Karrier ; a further Karrier Vehicle is kept in reserve for general use.

For the Cesspool emptying, a special cesspool emptying vehicle is used to enable the work to be carried out in a hygienic manner and avoid nuisance.

This vehicle is also used in the emptying of the closet pails or pans of which there are approx 500 in Thirsk and Sowerby besides a similar number in the surrounding area.

The Council also undertake the cleansing after the weekly Market and clean up the Market Place on a Sunday morning.

Pails and dustbins are in the main part emptied once each week, and middens and other fixed receptacles once each month, although scattered properties are visited at more infrequent intervals for the emptying of middens and clearance of old tins and similar household refuse.

The collected refuse is disposed of in a disused quarry some 5 miles south of Thirsk which necessitates long hauls.

The tip is kept tidy and free of vermin so far as possible but owing to insufficient available labour, it was not found possible to employ a full time tip man, as in previous years, which is the only satisfactory method for ensuring proper control of the tip.

The collection and disposal of refuse in a rural area provides many problems in order to avoid waste in labour and vehicles and keeping down of costs, also the satisfactory disposal of refuse becomes a serious problem through absence of convenient tipping sites sufficiently removed from houses to avoid complaint.

### **Public Conveniences.**

The Council maintain underground conveniences for the use of both sexes. These are situated in the Market Place and have been of great benefit to the bus parties and other road users which regularly visit Thirsk at all times of the year.

The conveniences have been in service for 18 years and were planned for much less usage. The growth of the traffic calls for more commodious premises or additions.

## Salvage.

The collection of Waste Paper for salvage was continued during the year, the waste being chiefly collected from the local shops.

A total weight of 15 tons was sold to Thames Board Mills under contract and realised a sum of £78.

In addition, scrap metal sold made £1 5s. 0d.

## RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the Prevention of damage by Pests Act, 1949, came into operation, repealing the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

This new Act makes the Council directly responsible to ensure that, so far as practicable, its area is kept free from rats and mice.

During the year the following work was carried out by your Operator :—

Inspections	...	...	1,713
Re-visits	...	...	518
Infestations found	...	...	141

A total weight of 1,600 oz. of poison bait was laid and in accordance with the Ministry's ruling this shews an estimated kill of approx. 2,000 rats.

The Council's refuse tips—Salvage Shed, Sewer Outfalls are frequently inspected and treated as found necessary ; also the sewers in Thirsk and Sowerby examined for the presence of rats in accordance with the instructions from the Ministry.

In addition, inspections of premises are made on report, in compliance with the Act and appropriate charges made for services rendered where required.

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Public Health—	Refuse Collection and Disposal	92
	Sewage and Sewerage ...	110
	Drainage ... ..	185
	Water Supplies ... ..	10
	Public Conveniences ...	31
	Hotel Conveniences ...	13
	Building Bye-laws ... ..	187
	Nuisances ... ..	76
	Complaints ... ..	7
	Keeping of Animals ... ..	7
	Infectious Diseases ...	5
	Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	16
	Schools ... ..	4
	Building Licences ... ..	10
	New Houses under erection ...	53
Public Health and Housing	Housing Repairs and Improvements ... ..	113
Factories Act—	Factories ... ..	18
Foods & Drugs Act—	Milk Supplies ... ..	4
	Bakehouses ... ..	3
	Cafes ... ..	5
	Ice Cream Premises ...	8
	Restaurants ... ..	2
	Fried Fish and Chip Premises...	2
	Unsound Food ... ..	52
Shops Act—	General Inspections ...	4
Petroleum Acts—	Petrol Storage ... ..	1
Housing Act—	Sites for New Houses ...	9
	Hutments Conversions ...	169
	Council House Applications	109
	Council House Maintenance ...	85
<hr/>		
Number of	Houses disinfected ... ..	7
„	„ treated for Vermin ... ..	1
„	Water samples submitted for analysis ...	7
„	Sewers repaired or cleared ... ..	28

Number of Drains repaired or cleared	...	...	95
„ Drains smoke tested	...	...	21
„ Tanks cleaned out	...	...	190

### Notices, etc.

Informal Notices to Owners or Occupiers	...	...	79
Number of Letters sent out	...	...	531

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Smoke abatement	...	...	No statutory action
Swimming Bath	...	...	None
Bed Bugs	...	...	No action

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### Petroleum Regulations.

No. of Licences issued :—	Storage of Petrol	...	68
	Storage of Calcium Carbide	...	1

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### Slaughterman's Licences.

No. of Licences issued	...	...	...	...	12
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### Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses	...	...	None
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	No action
Slaughterhouses	...	...	None
Shops	...	...	No action

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### Food and Drugs Act.

#### The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1940.

Number of Distributors Registered	...	...	4
Sale of Ice Cream—Registrations	...	...	17

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## **HOUSING.**

### **Erection of New Houses.**

#### **1. By Local Authority.**

Eight houses were completed during the year in the following villages :—

Kirby Hill	...	4 houses (3—3 bedroomed). (1—4 bedroomed).
Langthorpe	...	4 houses.

In addition the eight houses at Carlton Miniott were nearing completion by the year end.

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In view of the large proportion of applicants requiring houses in Thirsk and Sowerby, the Council decided to concentrate its immediate building programme in these two parishes and steps were taken to procure sites.

A site adjoining the Hambleton View Estate, Sutton Road was acquired, though a condition was applied by the Local Planning Authority reserving the frontage of the site for private development.

A site near the King's Gardens houses suitable for 28 houses was taken over by compulsory purchase proceedings.

#### **2. By Private individuals.**

The restriction on the issue of licences for the erection of houses was still in force in 1950. Four licences being issued.

### **Action under Housing Act, 1949.**

No applications for improvement grants were made during the year though the provisions of the Act were made known to persons undertaking re-conditioning of houses.



### **Action under Housing Act, 1936.**

Sec. 9	(for repair of unfit houses)	...	...	Nil
Sec. 11	(for undertaking in respect of, or demolition of unfit houses) :			
	Notices served	...	...	Nil
	Undertakings accepted	...	...	Nil
	Demolition Orders	...	...	Nil
Sec. 59	(Overcrowding) :			
	Abatement Notices served	...	...	Nil

### **Control of Civil Building.**

Licences were issued during the year as follows :

For repairs (houses only) 29—Total value £8,400.

Conversions to houses 5—Total value £2,665.

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

#### **Milk Supply.**

The Council now only control those persons who sell milk by retail and are not producers.

Three persons were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, for the sale of a special designated milk in bottles.

#### **Meat and Other Foods.**

##### **Meat.**

The slaughtering of animals for food is still carried out at the Ministry of Food abattoir, Northallerton, and the meat conveyed by motor lorry to Thirsk and the district for distribution to the butchers.

Other Foods.

Ice Cream.

17 persons are registered in the Area for the Sale of Ice Cream. In only one case is Ice Cream manufactured on the premises, the "Hot-Mix" method being used.

Cafes, Restaurants and other premises where food is prepared and sold are kept under supervision so far as possible.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. METCALFE,

Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector and  
Certified Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.



